

Expeditionary Fire Support System

DESCRIPTION

The Expeditionary Fire Support System (EFSS) will be the third and final system of a land-based fire support triad that includes the Lightweight 155mm Howitzer, High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and EFSS. Accompanying MAGTFs in all types of expeditionary operations, EFSS will be the primary indirect fire support system for the vertical assault element of the Ship To Objective Maneuver force. As such, the EFSS launcher, the EFSS prime mover, a portion of the basic load of ammunition, and a portion of its crew will be internally transportable by a single CH-53E helicopter and/or a single MV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft, and will possess the greatest possible range and flexibility of employment for Operational Maneuver from the Sea.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

EFSS will expand the maneuver commander's suite of fire support options and be capable of successfully engaging a spectrum of potential point and area targets, including motorized, light armored, and dismounted personnel targets, command and control systems, and indirect fire systems. EFSS will afford the MAGTF commander increased flexibility in tailoring his fire support systems to support the scheme of maneuver. EFSS-equipped units will be especially well suited for missions requiring speed, tactical agility, and vertical transportability. The EFSS design and configuration will ensure that its tactical mobility, both in the air and on the ground, is equal to the supported force.

PROGRAM STATUS

The EFSS Program is completing System Development and Demonstration and has entered Low Rate Initial Production. Contract was awarded to General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems in late 2004. EFSS achieved a Milestone B in 2004, Milestone C in 2005, and an LRIP decision in 2006. Initial Operational Capability is scheduled for mid to late 2007, when one artillery regiment receives six EFSS systems.

Procurement Profile:	FY 2007	FY 2008
Quantity:	12	7

Developer/Manufacturer:
GD-OTS with subcontractor TDA Armements
(THALES Group), La Ferte-Saint Aubin, France